

East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, May 4, 2010

Hanaford School Cafeteria

200 Middle Road

East Greenwich, RI 02818

ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE

6:00p.m. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) Collective Bargaining Issues Re: Teacher's Contract, Collective Bargaining Custodial Contract

7:00p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The May 4, 2010 School Committee meeting was held at the Hanaford School on Tuesday, May 4, 2010. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Chair JeanAnn Guliano called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. Also present were Vice-Chair, Anne Palumbo, Susan Records, Deidre Gifford, Robert Durant, and Mary Ellen Winters as well as Maryanne Crawford, Director of administration and Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent of Schools.

II. Public Comments

Joy Lonardo, parent, taxpayer, and grandparent, spoke about the privatization of custodians. She moved here 25 years ago because of the school system. She noted that employees usually work in East Greenwich until they retire. Mrs. Lonardo noted that the custodians feel a responsibility to the students here. She feels there are too many temporary workers in the United States and students feel safe when there is continuity in staff. She added you get what you pay for.

Mr. Robert Coutu, custodian at Meadowbrook Farms, stated that people wonder about the low ball cost of one of the bids. There is also a revolving door concern. He wished the public had known about going out to bid sooner and hopes it isn't too late for them to be heard. Mrs. Guliano noted that custodians will have access to information since the bids are in.

III. Recognitions

a. Steve Garneau, Cole Technology Teacher, was present at the meeting to receive his certificate. Mrs. Meyer stated that Mr. Garneau volunteers his time and was recently recognized by the International Technology Association having a Program of Excellence.

b. The EG Elementary school Chess Teams consisting of Daniel Shimberg, Benjamin Osborne, Alfred Timperley, Wyatt DePriest, Jack Perrett, Liam Sullivan, Stephen Timperley, and David Norton won 1st and 2nd place in the 2010 RI Scholastic State Chess Championship for Grades K-4, with Frenchtown School edging out Meadowbrook and Hanaford for most points scored. Individual state trophy winners included Daniel Shimberg who tied for 3rd place statewide in grades K-4 with 3 of 4 points.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2010 Regular and Executive Sessions.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio spoke about the Family Youth Initiative Workshop on Thursday, May 6th at 6:30pm at St. Luke's Church. He also stated

that last week he attended the Governor's Symposium on Education and the teacher evaluation instrument was a topic of conversation. Dr. Mercurio stated that the Race to the Top Memo of Understanding has been revised from the 1st round. This memo of understanding was signed by Dr. Mercurio and Mrs. Guliano. It breaks down what RIDE's commitment is. The extension looks at the work on what RIDE's expectations are. Mrs. Guliano noted that the first round was very rushed and many details were missing. She added the teacher's union is still concerned about the teacher evaluation. She feels it would be good if East Greenwich could be a full participating district. Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to allow the Superintendent and Chair to sign off on the Memo of Understanding regarding their goals and objectives. Mrs. Gifford asked if there was anything that says we will receive any part of the \$75 million. Mrs. Shimberg stated there shouldn't be any cost to the district and the Deputy Commissioner says we will get dollars to support substitute teachers. Mrs. Gifford feels this shouldn't be signed until we know when we'll get money. Dr. Mercurio noted that much of what is in the application is aligned to the State Strategic Plan. Mrs. Guliano stated we have to do this anyway but feels we shouldn't sign it until we see the budget. We are still going to advocate to the State not to cut our funding. Mrs. Gifford noted that in suburban districts the feeling is if we don't have many kids on free and reduced lunch we don't need State Aid. Mrs. Gifford amended the motion to allow Mrs. Guliano to execute the Memo of Understanding subject to a budget being presented showing the

impact in East Greenwich. The motion was seconded by Mr. Durant and was unanimous.

VI Action Items

- a. Race to The Top Memorandum of Understanding-noted above.

VII. Discussion Items

a. Building Project Update

Mr. Jon Winikur from SBS spoke about neighbors concerns and seismic activity. Concerns

exist but they are going to stop daily seismic readings and continue to look at the homes affected. He spoke about the progress being made on the new middle school. Mr. Kenneth Romeo stated that the concrete, and structural steel are substantially complete; and site utilities are on-going. There will be a lot more activity as warm weather comes along. Mr. Romeo noted that the new main entry work is on-going and guidance area work will be done this summer. He stated that people may wonder about flyers being placed around town concerning Delta Mechanical. He noted that Local 17, Sheet Metal Workers raised concerns but he hasn't gotten any reports from Mr. Butler. Mr. Romeo feels confident the work can be done without issue. He also noted that Fleet Construction has filed bankruptcy but they are still working at the high school. Mr. Winikur gave an ESCO update and noted that Schneider Electric should have specific costs soon. Mr. Winikur stated that we shouldn't close any school because we may have overcrowding. He also spoke about repairs to Meadowbrook School and noted that studies are on-going. The high school roof is in very bad shape and it could cost between \$250,000

to \$1 million dollars. Documents will be prepared for going out to bid.

Mr. Winikur spoke about putting \$1 million dollars away in program contingency. Regarding the district technology, Mr. Winikur stated that the vision was to have a state of the art facility but there are issues with money. He also noted that specific equipment was not selected yet. Mrs. Records asked who is involved in making decisions on technology for the middle school. Mr. Winikur noted that it is the architects, SMMA, Mrs. Meyer and her team at Cole. Dr. Mercurio stated that the large scale purchases will go through the district technology team. Mrs. Meyer added that Mr. Garneau and Mrs. Zack from Cole are educating themselves on the new technology. There was a district technology grant which was recently submitted. Mrs. Guliano noted there is concern about what happens to technology at the high school. Dr. Mercurio stated that Cole will be used as a prototype and replicated at the high school. Mrs. Gifford asked about Cole abutters who had problems with shaking and damage to their houses. Mr. Romeo responded that Aldinger doesn't see how there is structural damage. Aldinger said it was a possibility but not to the extent they're seeing in those homes.

Mrs. Gifford also asked about the ESCO Study and stated she hasn't seen any numbers. Mr. Winikur stated that ESCO has spent the past three months collecting data and it is too early for conversations.

The audit is coming.

b. Fields Project Update

We are closer and when we receive a certificate of occupancy the kids will be on the fields.

c. School Committee Scholarship-This item wasn't discussed since Mr. Martin was absent.

d. FY 2011 Budget

Dr. Mercurio noted there is nothing new. The Governor signed the stop gap measure extending for 90 days on whether to release the money from the excise tax.

VIII. School Committee Concerns

Future agenda Items: Church rental at the high school; Superintendent's evaluation; Gates on fields; UCOA.

IX. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:25p.m.